

The Family of God

Insights on Romans 8:9-25

Pastor Dave Nichols, Grace Point Church, January 21, 2018

Our Debt:

(Romans 8:9-13)

- Not...

- To...

Why do we wage war?

(Romans 8:14-17, 6:14, 2 Timothy 1:7, Galatians 4:3-5)

We have been _____

-
-
-
-

The new Father...

(1 John 3:1, Psalm 68:5-6)

1. Loves me because _____

...that's all.

2. He will _____ and wants _____

...no concept of leaving.

3. He is proud of me... _____

This weeks discussion guide:

Welcome to “Week 2” of our small group session!

We are glad that you have taken this journey with us digging into God’s Word with others. We pray this is a time of growth, encouragement, and fun as you deepen friendships and make new friends along the way!

Looking Back:

Each week we’ll look and have an opportunity to share with our group how the week went and also share a few things to help us get to know each other better. What is something encouraging or not so encouraging that happened since our last meeting?

1. What movie can you watch over and over again without ever getting tired of it and why?

2. If someone were to point to a child and say, “that child is really loved by their parents.” What would you conclude about how their parents treat him?

How does this align with your view of how God loves his adopted children?

Each week in “looking back,” we also want to give each other the opportunity to look back since our last meeting and have an opportunity to share how we applied something to our daily lives that we learned or discussed previously from God’s Word.

Looking back at your notes from this week’s teaching, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or needs some clarification?

Looking Up:

1. One of the greatest gifts God offers us is the opportunity to be adopted into his family and to be called “His children.” How do the following verses help you understand what it took to be adopted?

- **1 John 3:1-2, Psalm 68:5-6, 1 John 4:9-10**

How does being His child shape who you are and what you do with your actions?

2. Adoption as a follower of Christ means we're part of a new family and have a new father. As you read the passages below, jot down as many details as you can find about what it means to be part of this new family and how they describe God's character as your father.

- **Psalm 145:8, Psalm 145:17-20, Psalm 94:12-13**

Which character qualities of God caught your attention the most in your list above and why?

Of the descriptions you jotted down about what it means to be part of God's family, which one do you relate to the most? Are there any more difficult to relate to than others?

3. As followers of Christ we have a new identity. This means that we start believing what God says about us; we are no longer defined by what others say, what our feelings say, what our successes say, or what our failures say. What do the following verses say about a person's new identity in Christ?

- **Ephesians 1:3, 2:10, 3:12, 5:8, Romans 8:39, Colossians 2:9-10**

Which statements about our new identity in Christ, that we just read about above, are most important for you to remember and why?

Looking Forward:

This last section is based on passages like the one below.

But don't just listen to God's Word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves. For if you listen to the Word and don't obey, it is like glancing at your face in a mirror. You see yourself, walk away, and forget what you look like. But if you look carefully into the perfect law that sets you free, and if you do what it says and don't forget what you heard, then God will bless you for doing it.
James 1:22-25 (NLT)

Let's take a few minutes to silently pray and reflect back on this last week's message and what we discussed in our group. As we reflect, let's all pray and ask God for a specific application that He might prompt us to live out this week. If you are willing, share this with the group.

To help us as we reflect, here are some possible applications to get us thinking...

- This week take some time to consciously rest in God's love. Remembering that God loves you not because of what you do for him, but that you are his child.
- To help shape our understanding of God as Father, when you pray this week begin your prayers with “Abba” or even “Dad.” This is the kind of relationship he desires with us.
- Fear controls a lot of our actions and attitudes. Take time this week to confess your fear to the Lord, and ask him to fill you with his peace and comfort.

As we look forward to this week, let's pray for one another!